



SDMS DocID

268499

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 1985
SUBJECT: POLREP #1, SOUTH BANK NASHUA RIVER
ASBESTOS SITE CLEAN-UP
LOCATION: NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
POLLUTANT: ASBESTOS
OCCURRENCE DATE: UNKNOWN
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA AFFECTED: GROUND, AIR, WATER
SEVERITY: POTENTIAL MAJOR
CATEGORY: DUMPING
SOURCE: JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION, NASHUA, NH
REGION: EPA REGION 1 (617) 223-7265
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OIL & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE SECTION
LEXINGTON, MA

ON SCENE COORDINATOR PAUL R. GROULX,

SITUATION:

The South Bank site consists of an asbestos deposit protruding from the south bank of the Nashua River, east of Main Street, in the vicinity of Nashua Public Library. The deposit is several thousand feet in length and situated high on the bank above the Nashua River.

The deposit consists of friable asbestos plate and baghouse waste. EPA and State investigations on site indicate that the material has been in place for over 30 years as mature trees and other vegetation are growing up on top of the deposit.

The exposed deposit is located within three feet of a playground and adjacent to the public library parking lot. The property involved is crisscrossed by numerous well-worn footpaths, indicating regular use and easy access.

The Johns-Manville Corporation of Hudson, NH apparently utilized this site to dispose of asbestos waste, in addition to other sites at which immediate removal actions took place during 1983, 1984, and 1985.

This site is not on the National Priority List.

ACTION:

ON 12 JUNE 1985, THE U.S.EPA INVESTIGATED THE SOUTH BANK OF THE NASHUA RIVER AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, BASED ON THE DETERMINATION OF IMMINENT AND SUBSTANTIAL DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH. IT FORMALLY REQUESTED REQUESTED EPA ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTION.

UPON REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY DATA ANALYSIS AND FIELD OBSERVATIONS, EPA SUBMITTED AN EVALUATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS TO THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) IN ATLANTA GA. .

ON JULY 30, 1985 EPA RECIEVED AN HEALTH ADVISORY FROM THE CENTER (CDC) SUPPORTING THE STATE AND EPA CONCURRENCE THAT A IMMINENT PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT EXISTED AT THE SITE.

ON AUGUST 3, 1985. THE REGION 1 REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, MICHAEL DELAND AUTHORIZED \$200,000.00 THROUGH AN ACTION MEMO REQUEST FROM THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SECTION.

PROPOSED PROJECT AND COST

Objectives of the immediate removal are:

- (1) To temporarily close and restrict access to the playground area adjacent to the site.
- (2) Provide temporary cover for off-site migration on exposed asbestos to prevent human exposure via airborne and water transport.
- (3) To restrict and discontinue access to pedestrian use of the footpaths, and youth assembly areas.
- (4) Utilize U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Research Laboratory engineering staff, located in Hanover NH, who have provided design and engineering assistance to the U. S. EPA on all the previous sites.

IMMEDIATE ACTION:

1st phase

THE METHOD OF REDUCING ACCESS WILL BE TO SECURE THE AREA OF THE SITE AS DEFINED WITH A CHAIN LINK SECURITY FENCE AND WARNING SIGNS

2nd Phase

DUE TO THE SHORT TIME FRAME AVAILABLE, THE FIRST PHASE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENTED. THE NEXT PHASE WILL CONSIST OF SURVEYING THE AREA AND PERFORMING AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF ASBESTOS, THE DEPTH OF COVER, AND DOCUMENTING THE EXPOSED AREAS. THIS INFORMATION WILL THEN BE TURNED OVER TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR SPECIFICATION DESIGNS FOR COVER. THIS PHASE OF THE OPERATION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE ASBESTOS SITE INVESTIGATION PROJECT (see polrep).

THE OSC ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1985, HELD A SHORT INFORMATIONAL MEETING COORDINATING WITH THE MAYORS OFFICE WITH THE LOCAL INVOLVED PROPERTY OWNERS TO ANSWER CONCERN AND QUESTION RELATING TO THE UPCOMING PROJECT.

ON OCTOBER 4, 1985, THE OSC MET WITH CITY OF NASHUA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING EMERGENCY ACTION AT THE SOUTH BANK. IT WAS DETERMINED AT THIS MEETING THAT THE CITY HAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED ALL THE PROPERTY ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE NASHUA RIVER INVOLVING THE EXPOSED ASBESTOS. HOWEVER, PRIVATE RESIDENTS ABOVE THE SLOPE WILL BE INVESTIGATED FOR POSSIBLE ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION.

FUTURE:

THE PRESENT OSC HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE AND JOB REPLACEMENT ON THIS SOUTH BANK PROJECT (fence installation), for the following;

- a.) OSC at the LOWELL ROAD SITE in HUDSON, N.H.
- b.) OSC at the SHADY LANE SITE in NASHUA, N.H. both of which are ongoing and are almost completed.
- c.) OSC for THE SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE ASBESTOS SITE INVESTIGATION PROJECT.

THIS OSC CANNOT FUNCTION IN MORE THAN THREE PLACES AT A TIME.

RICHARD HAYWORTH, WILL BE THE OSC FOR THE SOUTH BANK ASBESTOS PROJECT (fence installation).

ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 1985, O.H. MATERIALS, THE PRIME CONTRACTOR WILL COMMENCE TO START CLEARING TREES AND BRUSH FOR THE UPCOMING TEMPORARY FENCE INSTALLATION.

FINACIAL: (ceiling \$200,000.00)

	ceiling	obligated	balance
O.H. Materials (prime Contractor) (for fence and survey work only)	\$115,000	-----	\$115,000
TAT (Roy F. Weston) (for site asbestos determination only)	\$40,000	(obligations pending TAT office release)	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$15,000	(to be obligated for future design work)	
U.S. EPA	\$30,000	\$2,200	\$27,800

CASE PENDS.....

POLREP DISTRIBUTION LIST

Polrep: 1

Date: 10/6/85

Site: South Bank of Nashua River
NASHUA, N.H.

 X National Response Center
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590

 X U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Division, (WH-548-B)
401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

EPA BOSTON - JFK Building

 X Mike Deland, Regional Administrator

 X Paul Keough, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

 X Brook Cook, Office of Public Awareness

 X Mel Holman, Director, Waste Management Division

 X Phil Boxell, Office of Regional Counsel

 X Steve Ells, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

EPA LEXINGTON

 X Edward Conley

 X Donald Berger

 X Paul Groulx (OSC job file) original

 X POLREP FILE (office copy)

OTHERS

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